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CORRECTIONS DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 1988

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS
JANUARY 1989

DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS

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December 23, 1988

To the Reader:

The Corrections Division Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1989 is the first comprehensive report on program and statistical data in the history of the division. This report reflects our increasing ability to gather data, analyze information and present results which are important to the effective management of complex correctional issues. Much of the information in this report is technical in nature and useful for research and management purposes. Other portions of the report are more general, and perhaps of greater interest to most practitioners and the public at large. This mix of general and more specific information should serve to satisfy the needs of a variety of readers.

The credit for this fine effort rightfully goes to Mr. Ted Clack, Research and Analysis Manager and his assistant, Richard Petaja. Their efforts and those of the Department's Information Systems Bureau have contributed greatly to the Corrections Division and our ability to generate accurate statistical and program information.

Please use this report as it suits your needs. It is designed so that the reader can "pick and choose" from a variety of data to address particular questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Russell

DANIEL D. RUSSELL

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The population of offenders committed to Montana's correctional programs has grown markedly during this decade. That population growth cannot be attributed solely to increased incidence of crime, better prosecution or an increase in Montana's general population. Admissions to correctional programs have increased but at a rate much less than that of corrections populations. The 1988 Montana civilian population was only slightly larger than that of 1980. The incidence of serious crime in Montana has decreased since 1980. Information provided in this report clearly indicates that court sentencing practices have become more severe. Further, although parole rates have increased in recent years, those increases have not kept pace with the growth of correctional populations.

Increased severity in sentencing practices is evident in several areas.

- The average length of sentence imposed on convicted offenders has increased during the 1980s.

- The number of offenders sentenced to very long prison terms has increased even more rapidly.

- The proportion of prison admissions upon first felony conviction has increased substantially in the last five years.

- The dangerous offender designation has been imposed more often in the last five years, the results of which are manifest in the increase of this group within the incarcerated population.

- The proportion of incarcerated offenders serving time on revoked suspended sentences also has increased markedly within the prison population and admissions.

- Offenders incarcerated on revoked suspended sentences are being incarcerated for fewer offenses than in previous years.

- Although total admissions to correctional programs have increased, those to probationary sentences have decreased since 1984.

The criminal offender population in Montana appears to be aging somewhat. The average age of the incarcerated population has increased three or four months each year since 1980. This may be due, in part, to increased sentence length. However, the average age of prison admissions also has increased overall since 1984. This phenomenon suggests that the offender population is not being fully replaced by younger offenders. If that is the case, the trend may foretell a future decrease in admissions to correctional programs, assuming no change in criminal statutes and prosecution practices.

Offense trends among admissions indicate an increase in deliberate homicide, sexual assault, burglary and, to a lesser degree, robbery from 1984 to 1988. Admissions for rape declined during that period. Admissions for aggravated assault and theft, though erratic, showed little overall change from 1984 to 1988. Overall, the proportion of offenders convicted of the seven major crimes increased in both prison admissions and populations during this decade. Increased sentence length may, in part, be a response to increases in serious crime within the criminal population.

The increase in the average age of incarcerated offenders is mirrored in the age composition of prison populations and admissions. The youngest age cohorts within the offender population declined markedly in relative size. Older age cohorts experienced an increase in relative size.

The racial composition of prison admissions and populations remained constant during the decade. Whites comprise the vast majority of incarcerated offenders. Native Americans are consistently over-represented in the offender population, comprising about one sixth of that population and less than one twentieth of the State's general population. Review of sentencing trends does not support assumptions of racial bias in sentencing.

A. MONTANA CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS

The Montana Corrections system is small - our offender population is smaller in number than the staff of many states. Corrections was organized as a division of the Montana Department of Institutions in 1975. Since its inception, the Division has attempted to provide a broad continuum of services ranging from evaluation, counseling and supervision in the community through community pre-release centers to incarceration in the State's three prisons. Special emphasis is placed in two areas; community corrections as the intervention of first choice; and, individual correctional supervision and programming whenever feasible. The division serves only adults. Juvenile corrections was moved to a separate state agency on July 1, 1987.

Specific programs within the Corrections Division include the following:

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

The institutional component of the Montana corrections continuum comprises three correctional facilities and five pre-release centers located in four communities. Three of the pre-release centers are operated by corporations on contract to the state; the other centers are state leased and operated. Brief descriptions of Montana's institutional corrections programs follow.

- **Montana State Prison**

Montana State Prison is located on the western outskirts of Deer Lodge, Montana. This facility provides confinement and rehabilitation of male felons. Recent construction at the Prison has increased its single-cell capacity to 754 inmates. The Prison compound comprises maximum, high and low security areas. The present population of Montana State Prison is in excess of 1,000 inmates.

Prison operations comprise six general programs: Care and Custody;

Prison Ranch; License Plate Factory; Prison Industries; Prison Canteen; and, Prison Industries Training Program.

A. Care and Custody - This program combines Administration, Support, Security, and Treatment elements.

1. Administration provides overall staff direction and services.

2. Support Services are responsible for care and maintenance of Prison buildings and equipment, daily support services and supplies.

3. Security ensures safe and secure confinement of prison inmates.

4. Treatment provides each inmate the opportunity to obtain skills and therapy necessary for successful return to the community. Such services include:

4.1 Anger management therapy.
4.2 Assertiveness training.
4.3 Sex Offender program.
4.4 Stress management.
4.5 Special needs group therapy.
4.6 Relaxation group therapy.
4.7 Crisis intervention.
4.8 One-to-one therapy.
4.9 Chemical dependency treatment.
4.10 Recreational programs.

Medical care and education services also are provided within the Treatment Program. A Prison Infirmary, divided into high and low security areas, provides basic medical care. Contracts with medical specialists and area hospitals meet the special medical needs of inmates. Education services include evaluations of all admissions, remedial basic education leading to GED as necessary, and referrals to either vocational training or college level study. The College of Great Falls provides correspondence courses at the Prison through a telecommunications hook-up.

B. Prison Ranch - This is a self-supporting program using dairy, crop and beef operations to provide work experience and wages for

inmates. Dairy products and crops produced by the program are used by the prison and other state institutions. Ranch beef is sold in out-of-state markets.

C. License Plate Factory - This program,- responsible for the production of all license plates for the State, also provides work experience and wages for prison inmates. The program is supported by Department of Justice funds.

D. Prison Industries - The Industries program provides inmate training in productive work habits and skills. Programs include training in furniture restoration, refinishing and manufacture, upholstery, sign manufacture, printing, logging, post and pole production and jack-leg fence construction.

E. Prison Canteen - This program provides a "convenience store" service to inmates as well as inmate employment. The Canteen program is self-supporting.

F. Prison Industries Training Program - This program offers vocational training, on-the-job-training and work experience for inmates. The program is intended to provide enrolled inmates with marketable skills appropriate for the present economy. To this end, inmates receive career counseling, training in business, office, telecommunications, and vehicle overhaul, repair and maintenance skills.

Selected fiscal data for Montana State Prison are presented below for fiscal years 1984 to 1988.

MONTANA STATE PRISON
Fiscal Year

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
Total Authorized Staff	382.48	379.78	351.08	301.45	300.45
Total Cost/Inmate Day	$36.42	$36.75	$31.93	$33.84	$34.16
Average Daily Population	957.4	925.5	907.2	802.3	739.9

Note that total cost per day has increased 6.6 percent and authorized

staff have increased 27.3 percent since 1984. In contrast the average daily population of this facility has increased 29 percent since 1984.

- **Swan River Forest Camp**

The Swan River Forest Camp is located in the Swan Valley south of Swan Lake, Montana. This facility is a 54-bed minimum security prison for males aged 18 to 25. Residents of the Swan River Forest Camp are referred there from Montana State Prison. All residents must be of minimum custody status, have a clear Prison conduct record, be in good health, have short sentences and, with very few exceptions, be convicted of a non-violent crime. Residents who fail to abide by the Camp's rules are returned to Montana State Prison.

The Swan River Forest Camp provides a number of rehabilitative programs in addition to care, custody, a commissary and security. These programs are:

1. Vocational Education - This program prepares residents for employment or enrollment in a vocational-technical school upon release. Training is provided in auto mechanics, fundamentals of welding, machine shop operations and small engine maintenance, repair and service.

2. General Education - The primary objectives of this program are to provide remedial instruction in reading, spelling, and math, in addition to a GED course of study. The program also provides training in job seeking skills, basic computer skills and drivers' training.

3. Work Program - Residents enrolled in this program, operated in conjunction with the Department of State Lands, obtain basic work habits, skills and experience. All work provided by this program is related to forestry, forest products, and forest support activities (e.g. basic carpentry, campground maintenance, etc.). Residents also are trained as forest fire fighters.

4. Treatment - Each resident is enrolled in this program, with the intention of providing him insight about the reasons for his incarceration and training to prevent his reoffending. Residents develop individual treatment plans to address their weaknesses and develop strengths. Residents requiring more intensive therapy are referred to a licensed consulting psychologist.

5. Chemical Dependency Treatment - The Camp provides a fully licensed outpatient treatment program to needy residents. The program comprises evaluation, education, treatment, planning, education, referral, and follow up services.

Selected fiscal data for the Swan River Forest Camp are presented below, for fiscal years 1984 to 1988.

SWAN RIVER FOREST CAMP
Fiscal Year

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
Total Authorized Staff	25.83	25.83	26.83	26.33	26.33
Total Cost/Inmate Day	$48.62	$47.58	$47.92	$50.67	$46.55
Average Daily Population	49.1	49.4	51.2	47.2	49.1

Total authorized staff has been reduced slightly since 1984 and the cost per day has increased 4.4 percent. The population of this facility has remained stable.

Women's Correctional Center

The Women's Correctional Center was opened in 1982 to cope with an increasing female inmate population and decreasing availability of out-of-state housing. The Center is located on the campus of Montana State Hospital in Warm Springs, Montana. The facility, a converted dormitory, was designed to house 30 inmates. The present inmate count is in the mid-40s.

All females incarcerated in Montana are initially sent to the Women's Correctional Center. Once classified, some women may be transferred to other programs. Rehabilitative programming at the

Center provides educational, vocational, therapeutic, recreational and spiritual services. More specifically, these services entail:

1. Educational/Vocational Program - This service includes adult basic education and GED preparation curricula as well as college courses offered through Western Montana College. Vocational training is provided through paid work assignments within the Center and on the Hospital campus.

2. Therapeutic Program - Psychological and psychiatric services are provided on contract as a supplement to a full-time staff counselor. Training is provided in interpersonal communications skills and in parenting skills on a quarterly basis, again on contract to outside consultants. Addictive Disease counseling also is provided on a contract basis and membership in various community-based self-help groups is available.

3. Recreational Activities - Programs are available to meet the inmates' physical and recreational needs. These programs include a mandatory physical fitness program, arts and crafts activities and various special events. All recreational programs are intended to teach constructive lifelong leisure activities.

4. Parenting Program. The Center has established a parenting program for female inmates. Those who qualify receive counseling and education in child development and parenting skills, including communication, conflict resolution and other interpersonal skills. Young children of these inmates are allowed to spend weekends with their mothers in a room reserved for the program. Children over 13 years of age are not permitted to spend the night in the Center but may spend daylight hours with their parent. Center staff regard this program as one of their most successful.

5. Spiritual Services - Weekly Protestant and Catholic religious services are available as are weekly Bible Study programs and Native American spiritual programs. Individual spiritual counseling also is available.

Selected fiscal data for the Women's Correctional Center are presented below for fiscal years 1984 to 1988.

WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTER
Fiscal Year

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
Total Authorized Staff	17.0	17.0	17.0	15.45	15.45
Total Cost/Inmate Day	$40.46	$36.33	$43.50	$47.23	$60.37
Average Daily Population	35.2	34.4	30.1	25.3	17.0

Note that total cost per day decreased from 1984 to 1988. Although the number of authorized staff increased 10 percent during this period, the Center population more than doubled in size.

Pre-release Centers

Montana correctional programs include five pre-release centers with a total capacity of 132 beds, 12 of which are dedicated to female offenders. These centers are supervised by the Community Corrections Bureau although, for the purpose of this report, they are considered to be institutions. These centers are located in Billings (two centers), Butte, Great Falls, and Missoula. Two of the centers are state operated; the remaining three are operated by private, nonprofit corporations on contract. The centers are non-secure, minimum security facilities. Each is intended as a final rehabilitative and transitional stage of incarceration. The centers promote employment, family relations, citizen participation, and stability on the part of inmates. Parole planning and preparation are encouraged. Inmates referred to the centers must be within one year of parole eligibility and typically have been convicted of non-violent crimes. Admission to the centers requires approval by both prison and local screening committees and final approval by the Corrections Division Administrator. Inmates who successfully complete pre-release center programs are considered economically stable, free of chemical dependency, and capable of living a constructive life.

The fiscal year 1988 daily per capita costs of incarceration in Montana's pre-release centers are displayed below.

Missoula Pre-release*	(MLSTC)	$31.96
Billings Pre-release+*	(BLSTC)	$48.87
Butte Pre-release	(BPRC)	$36.05
Alpha House Pre-release	(ALPHA)	$39.12
Great Falls Pre-release	(GFPRC)	$40.72

* State owned - Cost per day figures include only state general fund costs.

\+ Higher costs at this facility are largely the result of a higher resident staff ratio.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community correctional services include adult probation and parole, oversight of inmates on supervised release or work furlough, and intensive supervision. Thirty-nine probation and parole officers, located in 17 communities, provide supervision of convicted felons and a small number of misdemeanants. Supervision entails monitoring the location, activities, and behavior of the offenders, in addition to rehabilitative counseling. Face-to-face contacts are maintained on a regular basis, the frequency of which is determined by the risk the offender poses to the community and his needs. Officers also prepare pre-sentence investigations of convicted offenders in response to district court request. Pre-sentence investigations document the offender's history and provide recommendations concerning rehabilitation and sentencing. Probationers may be sentenced directly to community supervision or may receive such supervision after completing a prison term. Inmates on supervised release or work furlough receive similar supervision. Parolees also receive like services. Finally, probation and parole officers also are responsible for investigations, reports, and hearings involved in revocations of probationary sentences and paroles.

Montana initiated an Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) in 1988. This program is primarily intended to serve as an alternative to incarceration. To date, all participants have been offenders who were sentenced to prison and who, upon review and acceptance by all parties, have been admitted by court amendment of sentence. The program to date has been limited to 30 offenders in one Montana city. Eighteen offenders are currently on ISP and are supervised by one Probation and Parole Officer. In contrast, the average probation/parole officer is responsible for over eighty offenders.

Program participants also are monitored electronically. Supervision is provided 24-hours a day with this system - offenders are under the equivalent of "house arrest" when not at work or school. The program officer meets with each offender at least four times a week. Programming is geared to shift the offender to typical probation or parole within six months. If the individual does not perform as expected, Intensive Supervision will be extended. Those who fail the program may be incarcerated. Intensive Supervision has been made available to parolees on a very limited basis in order to shorten prison length of stay. The Division will seek authorization to add 5 officers to the program to allow expansion to two additional communities.

Finally, the Community Corrections Bureau participates in the Interstate Corrections Compact. This participation involves conducting investigations of proposed probationary or parole placements of non-Montana probationers and parolees. Those offenders, if accepted by Montana, also are supervised by Montana probation and parole officers. In return, Montana probationers and parolees relocating to other states are offered supervision by the receiving states.

Recent Accomplishments

▸ Privatization

Montana corrections has developed a constructive working relationship with private sector service providers. Three of five pre-release centers are operated by private, non-profit firms. A 20-bed expansion of pre-release center capacity, achieved in the last biennium, was allocated among those centers. Pharmaceutical services for correctional and other state institutions are provided by the private sector. In addition, private sector physicians are retained for special medical services of the inmate population, as are some psychiatric and psychological services. Some products of the Prison industries program are marketed through private sector interests, including prison furniture, logging products and ranch beef.

Prison Construction

A 192-bed expansion of Montana State Prison was completed in late 1986. Increased housing, security and support resources have allowed the Prison to create three separate security areas on site. The population now is segregated among Maximum, High and Low Security compounds. This development has relieved inmate and staff tension, has reduced the rate of inmate-inmate and inmate-staff assaults and permits more effective use of limited staff resources.

Inmate Management

Montana State Prison has reduced its protective custody population to less than one-tenth its former size. Until recently, protective custody was provided on demand and that sub-population was exceeding Prison resources. Staff conversations with federal and California correctional personnel led to the development of a new protective custody policy and procedures. Now, inmates who request protective custody must provide specific and actionable evidence that such status is necessary. That evidence is investigated by Prison staff. The decision to grant protective custody is based upon that investigation. The change in policy and procedure has not resulted in an increased number of inmate assaults. Prior to the implementation of this policy there were approximately 200 protective custody inmates in a population of 900 inmates. The Prison now seldom has more than 12 protective custody inmates at any one time.

The Corrections Division has instituted a random screening of the inmate population for chemical abuse. A statistically valid random sample of the population is subjected to an unannounced urinalysis each month. This program has been underway for only three months but is expected to suppress inmate use of contraband drugs.

Completion of new housing units has allowed Montana State Prison to create several Intensive Treatment Units for psychotic and chemically dependent inmates as well as units for sex offenders. The Sex Offender program comprises a three-phase program and two separate inmate therapeutic communities. The three phases of this program are: 1) general education, 2)

intensive therapy in segregated units and, 3) an aftercare component. Two program staff have been used as consultants by the National Institute of Corrections. Three chemical dependency units also exist in the population, two in the low security compound and one in high security. This program, too, has received national recognition. Finally, two treatment units have been organized for treatment, stabilization and maintenance of psychotic inmates. The first of these units educates and stabilizes psychotic inmates. The second maintains them in a stable condition and attempts to reintegrate them with the general inmate population.

Vocational training, in addition to arranging marketing agreements for Prison products, has developed a telemarketing work program in conjunction with the Montana Department of Commerce. Inmates man computer terminals providing travel information to prospective tourists and record their names and addresses for mailings of promotional literature.

Automation of Corrections Database

The Department of Institution severed its link to state central data processing in July, 1985. Data processing costs and time were increasing at an unacceptable rate without an accompanying increase in results. Since that time, the Department and the Corrections Division has been re-automating its databases. Corrections now has direct access to an IBM SYSTEM 38 minicomputer for data storage and rapid retrieval. Home grown programs, in conjunction with commercial software, permit staff to download central data files to their personal computers for analysis. Montana State Prison and the Womens' Correctional Center are linked to the System 38 by dedicated line. Plans are in place to extend that service to the Swan River Forest Camp. When development is complete, Regional Probation and Parole offices also will be linked to the System 38 through modems and an automatic nighttime dialup capability. Many data base problems of reliability and validity have been resolved in the re-automation process and data users are finally receiving usable output. An automated good time calculation program is in the final stages of testing. Finally, Prison management has automated many of its routine functions, including inmate housing, work and education assignments as well as personnel, payroll, inventory and accounting activities.

Issues

- **AIDS**

AIDS is not yet a major problem within Montana correctional populations. However, Corrections, working in conjunction with the State AIDS Coordinator and national resources, has developed policies and procedures to manage AIDS-afflicted offenders. All staff receive AIDS training in pre-service and regular in-service sessions. Inmates are provided with literature and counseling geared toward prevention.

- **Overcrowding**

Montana, like most states, is confronted with program overcrowding, at all levels. Institutional crowding is the more serious problem. Evidence suggests that much of the crowding problem is due to increasingly strict sentencing practices and, to a lesser degree, to more conservative parole practices. Corrections obtained National Institute of Corrections and Bureau of Justice Assistance grants to support the Criminal Justice and Corrections Advisory Council in September, 1987. That Council has suggested sentencing and programming alternatives as partial solutions to Montana's overcrowding problem. In addition, the Department will seek authorization of additional inmate housing to be built with inmate labor.

- **Arming Probation and Parole Officers**

The Department of Institutions will seek authority for Probation and Parole officers to carry firearms under specific circumstances. A task force has studied this issue for the past year and, working with the Department, has prepared draft policy, procedures and a legislative proposal seeking such authority.

B. SELECTED BUDGET DATA

Annual expenditures of state general funds and all funds are presented in Table B. Expenditures for probation and parole and pre-release centers are included under Corrections Division expenditures. The 1988 decrease in Corrections Division expenditures was largely due to the transfer of juvenile correctional programs to the Department of Family Services. Increases in correctional medical expenditures led to the administration of that budget by the Corrections Division in fiscal year 1984. Note that only the Montana State Prison and Swan River Forest Camp expenditures contain funds other than general funds that are of appreciable size. Those funds are primarily related to revolving accounts associated with ranch industries and forestry programs at those institutions. Montana State Prison expenditures increased most from 1980 to 1988, at an average annual rate of just over nine percent. Corrections medical expenditures increased at an average annual rate of eight percent. Of all expenditure groups, that of the Women's Correctional Center increased the least, at an average annual rate of 3.9 percent. The latter expenditures increased at a rate far less than the increase in the female offender population - an 18.4 percent increase in expenditures from 1983 to 1988 compared to a 76 percent population increase from 1983 to 1988.

Table B: Montana Corrections Expenditure Data
Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988

Category	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Central Office									
Total	3,686,126	3,942,921	3,864,187	3,857,951	3,496,187	3,650,015	3,443,887	3,043,422	2,570,768
General Fund	3,549,866	3,940,071	3,860,798	3,855,637	3,490,012	3,609,975	3,349,085	2,931,641	2,459,769
FTE	133.50	153.50	153.50	157.00	157.00	166.90	167.90	191.00	191.00
Medical Budget									
Total	765,055	868,714	848,214	743,138	582,799	-	-	-	-
General Fund	765,055	868,714	948,214	743,138	582,799	-	-	-	-
FTE	-0-	-0-	-0-	1.00	1.00				
MT State Prison									
Total	15,502,230	14,408,261	13,234,649	12,827,186	11,954,008	11,797,979	9,573,925	7,970,180	7,863,699
General Fund	12,458,662	12,320,307	10,410,158	9,820,679	9,029,992	9,330,759	7,430,472	6,421,909	6,144,151
FTE	406.06	404.53	365.28	332.45	332.45	326.57	278.79	262.17	305.00
Swan River Forest Camp									
Total	923,937	905,173	947,078	896,405	859,668	873,667	790,218	709,914	669,464
General Fund	803,951	778,076	829,229	807,462	787,553	745,138	676,571	619,755	485,840
FTE	25.83	25.83	26.83	26.33	26.33	26.33	26.33	25.33	25.33
Women's Corr.Center									
Total	736,766	653,943	667,816	636,951	551,334	622,077	212,556	-	-
General Fund	736,766	653,943	667,816	636,951	551,334	622,077	212,556	-	-
FTE	17.00	17.00	17.00	15.45	15.45	13.60	13.60		
TOTAL									
All Funds	21,614,114	20,779,012	19,561,944	18,961,631	17,443,996	16,943,738	14,020,586	11,723,516	11,103,931
General Fund	18,314,300	18,561,111	16,616,215	15,863,867	14,441,690	14,307,949	11,668,684	9,973,305	9,089,760
FTE	582.39	600.86	562.61	532.23	532.23	533.40	486.62	478.50	521.33

C. MONTANA CORRECTIONS DATA

The information presented below is divided into institutional populations and admissions categories. The term population refers to all individuals under institutional supervision (including residents of the State's pre-release centers) during the fourth quarter of each fiscal year. Populations data include data on admissions during that fiscal year, if those admitted remain under supervision. Admissions data are limited to those individuals sent to prison by the State's district courts or through revocation of parole by the Montana Board of Pardons in a given year. Admissions data are presented separately because prison admissions are a distinctly different group, at least with respect to time. Prison populations comprise individuals who have been incarcerated a short time and those who have been in that status for years. Comparisons between populations and admissions allow the reader to detect current changes in offender characteristics and sentencing practices that would be less evident if only population data were presented.

The Department of Institution began a re-automation of its corrections data in early 1984. That process continues to date. Admissions data presented in this report are limited to the years 1984 to 1988 because the Department remains uncertain of the quality of those data for earlier years. Probation and parole data presented in this report are very limited. Automation of this database is less complete than that of institutional data. More detail should be available for the 1989 report.

I. Trends in Montana Prison Populations, Admissions and Sentences

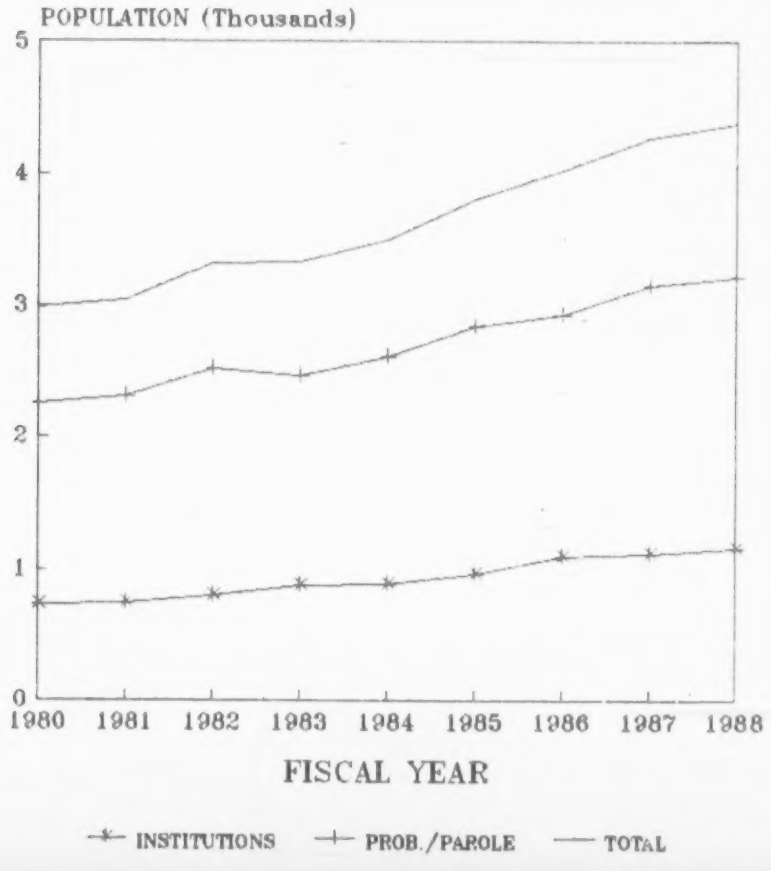
Correctional populations have grown markedly in Montana during the 1980s. Trends in Montana correctional **population growth** are displayed in Table 1 and Figure 1. Correctional institution populations, including pre-release center populations, have increased 60 percent since 1980. The Montana State Prison population alone increased 43 percent in the same period. The remaining increase in institutional population has been absorbed by the Women's Correctional Center and the pre-release centers. Pre-release center populations have grown nearly tenfold since 1980. Only the Swan River Forest Camp population has remained relatively stable. This stability is an artifact of the housing capacity of that institution. The population of probationers and parolees has increased nearly 43 percent in

this decade. Finally, total correctional populations have increased nearly 47 percent since 1980.

Table 1: Average Daily Populations of Montana Adult Corrections Programs. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Program	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
MSP	957.4	925.5	907.2	802.3	739.9	744.9	698.3	669.7	668.4
SRFC	49.1	49.4	51.2	47.2	49.1	52.0	50.0	44.1	45.5
WCC	35.2	34.4	30.1	25.3	17.0	20.0	2.0		
Subtotal	1041.7	1009.3	988.5	874.8	806.0	816.9	750.3	713.8	713.9
BLSTC	9.6	10.6	9.3	8.6	6.7	8.0	10.1	11.2	11.1
MLSTC	23.4	23.9	22.8	19.5	20.6	21.2	8.5		
ALPHA	30.5	24.4	21.2	22.3	24.0	23.6	21.7	13.3	1.4
BPRC	32.2	26.1	25.5	20.4	14.2				
GFPRC	27.5	25.3	23.3	16.9	11.2				
Subtotal	123.2	119.3	102.1	87.7	76.7	52.8	40.3	24.5	12.5
Probation	2771	2708	2524	2444	2248	2121	2173	1984	1944
Parole	451	441	411	398	366	345	353	323	316
Subtotal	3222	3149	2935	2842	2614	2466	2526	2307	2260
TOTAL	**4386.9**	**4268.6**	**4025.6**	**3804.5**	**3496.7**	**3335.7**	**3316.6**	**3045.3**	**2986.4**

FIG. 1: MONTANA CORRECTIONAL POPULATIONS
FISCAL YEAR 1980-1988



These correctional population increases have not been mirrored by proportionate increases in Montana's population, crime rate or admissions to correctional institutions. Estimates of Montana's population base show a 2.8 percent increase since 1980. The population group most commonly associated with serious crime - males aged 18 to 35 - is estimated to have declined slightly since 1980. The Montana Board of Crime Control reports that the rate of serious crime in Montana has declined since 1980. Admissions to Montana correctional programs have shown an overall increase of 2.5 percent since 1980, substantially less than the growth in correctional populations.

Trends in admissions to Montana correctional programs are presented in Table 2 and Figure 2. Annual admissions to Montana State Prison increased 13 percent from 1984 to 1988, down from a peak annual increase of 18 percent in 1987. Admissions to the Women's Correctional Center increased 65 percent in the same period. Total annual pre-release center admissions increased almost 43 percent in the same period. Overall annual institutional admissions grew just over 12 percent, in contrast to a 29 percent increase in institutional average daily populations in that period. The annual number of inmates receiving parole increased 79 percent from 1984 to 1988, although the proportion of total inmates receiving parole increased only 6.6 percent. Only annual admissions to probation declined during the period, in contrast to the 23 percent increase in the probationer population.

Table 2: Annual Admissions to Montana Adult Correctional Programs. Fiscal Years 1984 - 1988.

Program	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
MSP	499	521	509	479	441
SRFC	86	100	84	82	92
WCC	43	41	34	33	26
Subtotal*	542	562	543	512	467
BLSTC	19	23	20	17	13
MLSTC	54	54	53	54	62
Alpha	66	46	49	50	55
BPRC	69	50	51	47	35
GFPRC	57	52	44	44	21
Subtotal	265	225	217	212	186
Probation**	1264	1312	1207	1290	1418
Parole	294	311	234	218	164
Subtotal	1558	1623	1441	1508	1582
TOTAL*	**2100**	**2185**	**1984**	**2020**	**2049**

* Excludes admissions to SRFC and pre-release centers, to eliminate double counting.

** Estimated

FIG. 2: ADMISSIONS TO MONTANA CORRECTION PROGRAMS. FISCAL YEARS 1984-1988

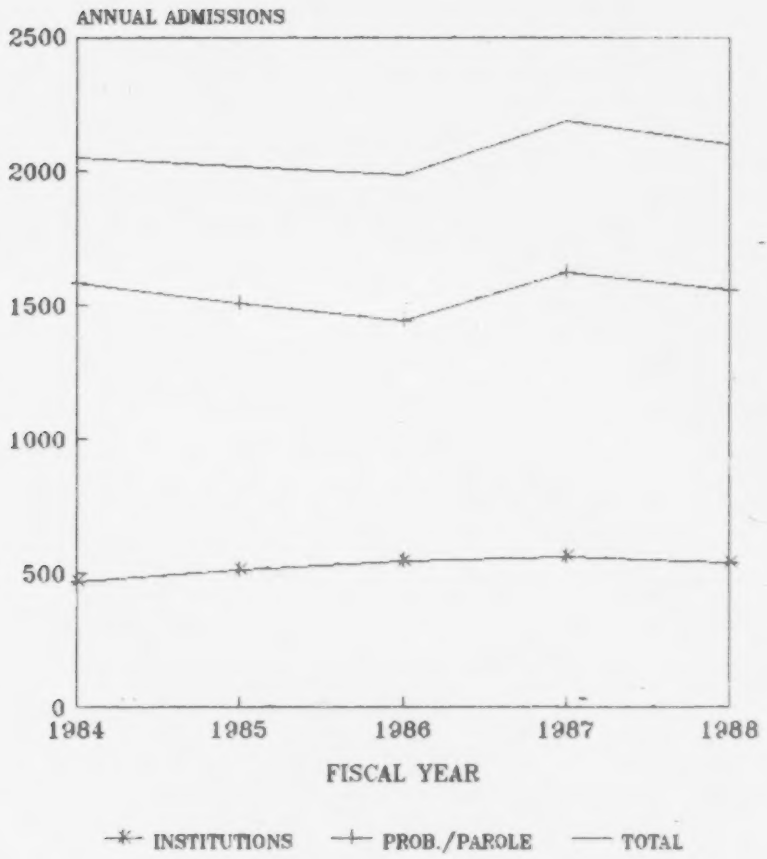
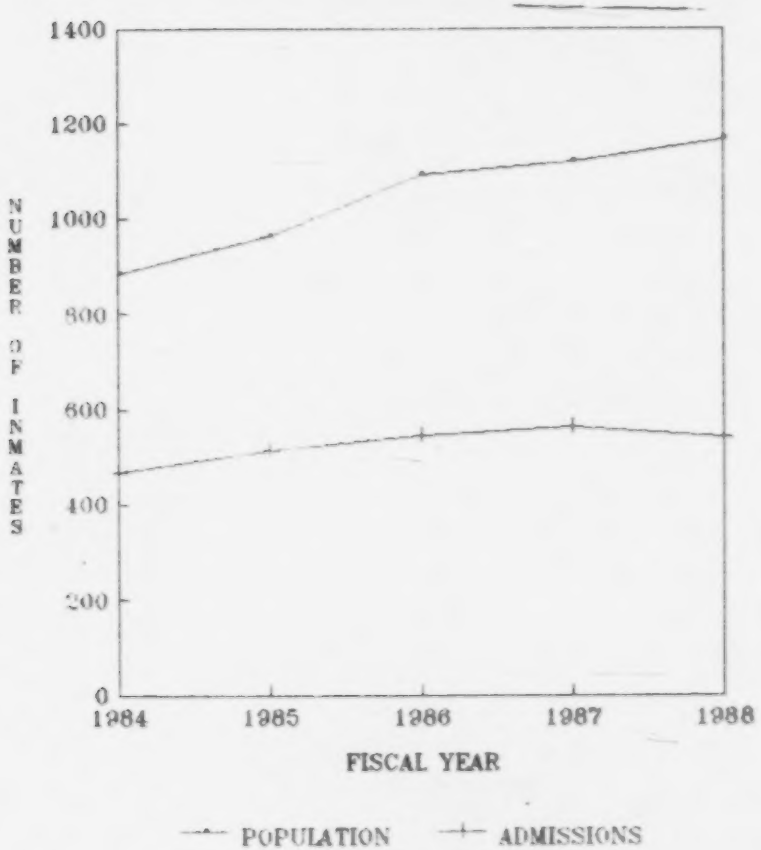


Figure 3 illustrates the difference in the growth rates of institutional populations and admissions. Note that the population and admissions growth curves have been diverging since 1984. Tables 1 and 2 contain the data on which this Figure is based.

FIG. 3: MONTANA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION POPULATIONS AND ADMISSIONS.



FISCAL YEAR 1984-1988.

Correctional program population size is controlled by two primary variables - admissions and length of stay. The data presented above indicate that increases in Montana's correctional population cannot be attributed solely to increases in admissions. Length of stay in these programs also must have increased. The tables and figures presented below illustrate this increase.

The **average length of sentence being served** by inmate populations and by persons admitted to prison is displayed in Table 3. The average sentence length of the population increased 15 percent from 1980 to 1988. Sentences to be served by persons admitted to prison increased nearly 27 percent from 1984 to 1988. Most of the increase in average length of sentence for admis-

admissions and prison population occurred in 1988. The difference between average sentences of admissions and population reflects the smaller proportion of inmates serving short sentences within the population, and the residual effect of persons serving very long sentences within the latter group.

Table 3: Average Sentence Length, In Years, of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Average Sentence	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population	23.1	21.6	20.0	21.3	19.8	19.7	19.7	19.7	20.0
Admissions	13.5	11.3	10.3	11.9	10.5				

Average length of stay is a term used to measure the amount of time an "average inmate" remains under institutional supervision. It is derived by computing the average amount of time all inmates have served from their date of admission to a date certain. For purposes of this report, the date certain is the fiscal year end - June 30. The computed figure is adjusted to suppress the effects of inmates serving very long sentences. Average length of stay is a useful means of measuring sentencing and release practices over time and is necessary in projecting future institutional populations. The **average length of stay of persons committed to prison** is presented in Table 4. These figures, presented in months, indicate that the average amount of time served by the population increased nearly 26 percent from 1980 to 1988.

Table 4: Average Length of Stay of Montana Correctional Institution Populations, in Months. Fiscal Year End 1980 - 1988.

Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
31.0	31.0	29.9	30.14	28.5	27.2	23.9	23.7	24.7

Average length of stay in correctional institutions is controlled by two factors - sentence length and release practices. The data in Table 3 indicate that average sentence length has increased substantially, but at a rate just over half that of length of stay. Releases occur either at sentence expiration or upon parole. Sentence expiration dates are influenced by good time and by the conditions set in the sentence. There have been no changes in good time statutes reducing the award of good time in this decade. Data presented in Table 2 suggest that the rate of parole has increased less rapidly than admissions to correctional institutions, average sentence length and average length of stay. Figures 4a and 4b provide a graphic depiction of the growth rates in average length of sentence and average length of stay.

FIG. 4a: AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH
FISCAL YEARS 1980-1988

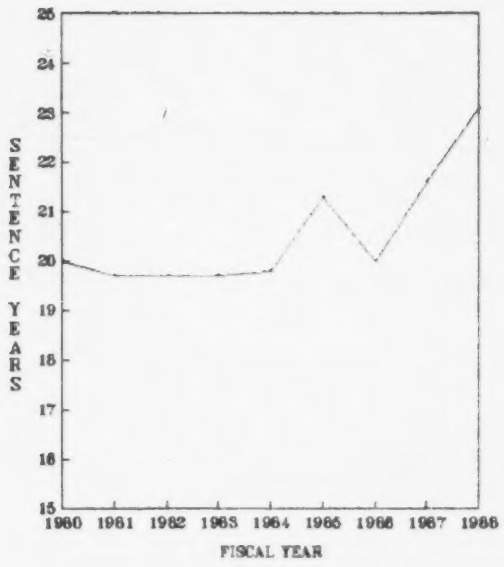
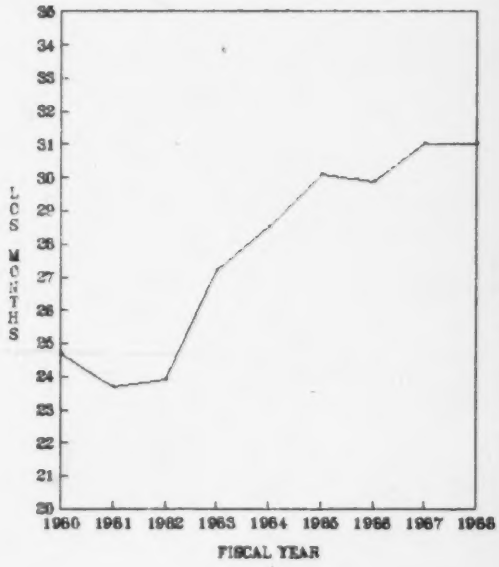


FIG. 4b: AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN MONTHS
FISCAL YERS 1980-1988



Tables 5 and 6 provide additional data relating to **increased average sentence length and average lengths of stay**. Table 5 displays the number of inmates in the incarcerated population and among prison admissions who are serving sentences greater than or equal to 100, 150 or 200 years. Note that the population serving sentences greater than or equal to 100 years has nearly doubled and that those serving sentences of 150 years or more has more than doubled since 1980. The number of inmates serving sentences of 200 years or more has increased over 85 percent in that period. The recent trend in admissions with sentences of those lengths also has more than doubled. The proportion of admissions serving terms of 150 years or more increased to nearly 43 percent in 1988, a fifteen percent increase in relative size from 1984. Table 6 displays the number of inmates serving life or death sentences. The number of inmates serving life sentences has increased from 23 to 32 since 1980, a 39 percent increase. An average of four inmates serving life sentences has been admitted to prison each year since 1984.

Table 5: Number of Offenders Serving Sentences Equal to or Greater Than 100,150, 200 years. Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
Sentence	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
	Population								
≥ 100	61	52	45	42	33	31	29	31	31
≥ 150	22	18	13	13	11	11	11	11	10
≥ 200	13	10	9	9	7	7	8	8	7
	Admissions								
≥ 100	12	8	5	10	5				
≥ 150	5	4	0	2	1				
≥ 200	4	1	0	2	1				

Table 6: Number of Inmates Serving Life or Death Sentences. Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
Sentence	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
	Population								
Life	32	30	26	25	25	33	22	24	23
Death	6	6	5	5	4	4	3	3	3
	Admissions								
Life	4	6	4	2	4				
Death	0	1	0	1	0				

II. Offense Characteristics of Montana Prison Populations and Admissions

Offenders committing one or more of seven major crimes have accounted for the majority of prison populations and admissions since 1980. Those seven crimes are: deliberate homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, sexual assault, sexual intercourse without consent (rape), theft and burglary. These crimes coincide with the FBI designations of Part I Crimes. Offenders who were convicted of these crimes accounted for 54.6 percent of the 1980 prison population and 62 percent of the 1988 population.

Offenders convicted of these crimes comprised nearly 63 percent of 1984 admissions and 66.2 percent in 1988. The percent of Montana prison populations and admissions convicted of these crimes is shown in Table 7, by crime. The proportions of the population convicted of sex crimes and deliberate homicide have increased more than those of the remaining crimes. Further, the proportion of the population convicted of violent crimes has increased relative to that convicted of property crimes, rising from 46 percent of the total in 1980 to 51 percent in 1988. The proportion of offenders convicted of robbery and burglary has declined slightly within the population. Offenders convicted of assault and theft have comprised a relatively constant proportion of the population, in comparison to those convicted of the other crimes. The trend is somewhat different among admissions. The proportion of admissions for burglary, theft, robbery, deliberate homicide and sexual assault increased, albeit erratically, from 1984 to 1988. The proportions of admissions for violent crimes and property crimes remained relatively stable from 1984 to 1988. The proportion of admissions for rape declined nearly 50 percent in that period. Admissions for assault declined slightly overall from 1984 to 1988. The disparity between proportions of offenders convicted of violent crimes among the population and among admissions is attributable to sentencing practices as well as to incidence of these crimes. Offenders convicted of crimes associated with longer sentences will be over-represented in the population in comparison to admissions. The data in Table 8 illustrate this phenomenon.

Table 7: Seven Most Common Crimes of Offenders Incarcerated in Montana Correctional Institutions - Percent Total Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1984 - 1988.

Crime	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
	Population								
Delib.Hom.	6.4	5.9	5.0	5.3	5.1	4.6	5.0	4.9	3.7
Agg. Asslt.	8.7	8.4	8.1	9.5	9.2	9.2	8.9	8.8	8.6
Robbery	5.7	5.6	6.8	6.9	6.5	6.8	7.0	8.7	8.5
Sex Assault	6.2	5.0	4.1	3.5	3.7	2.0	1.3	1.9	1.6
Rape	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.1	4.4	3.0	2.9	3.0
Theft	16.6	16.5	15.7	15.4	15.8	15.8	16.2	14.8	14.6
Burglary	13.9	12.9	13.6	14.6	13.9	13.9	16.1	16.0	14.5
TOTAL	**62.1**	**59.4**	**58.4**	**60.6**	**59.2**	**56.8**	**57.5**	**57.9**	**54.6**
	Admissions								
Delib.Hom.	2.6	2.7	1.6	2.1	1.9				
Agg. Asslt.	8.0	9.5	7.8	9.3	8.1				
Robbery	5.9	4.0	4.6	6.1	5.1				
Sex Assault	4.8	4.2	3.8	2.5	3.6				
Rape	2.0	2.2	2.6	4.0	3.8				
Theft	22.9	21.9	18.7	20.9	22.3				
Burglary	19.9	17.3	17.1	20.7	17.9				
TOTAL	**66.2**	**61.9**	**56.2**	**65.6**	**62.8**				

Trends in the **average sentence length, in years, imposed for the seven major crimes** are presented in Table 8. As one would expect, the sentences imposed for violent crimes are substantially greater than those imposed for property crimes. Average sentences imposed increased most markedly for deliberate homicide and theft. The average sentence length imposed for rape and sexual assault increased least of all the seven major crimes, within the population. Average sentences imposed on admissions to prison increased most for deliberate homicide, rape and burglary. In contrast average sentences imposed on admissions for robbery and aggravated assault declined. Note that the sentencing data for admissions are erratic, year to year. This is due to the relatively small number of admissions each year for some crimes. The most stable sentencing data are associated with the most common crimes, burglary and theft.

Table 8: Average Sentence Length, in years, of Offenders Convicted of Selected Crimes. Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1984 - 1988.

Crime	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	Average
Populations						
Deliberate Homicide	84.0	80.2	73.1	72.5	68.7	75.7
Aggravated Assault	26.1	26.1	26.2	24.9	22.9	25.2
Robbery	19.6	20.3	17.6	16.7	12.5	17.3
Sexual Assault	10.[illegible]	10.7	10.0	9.7	9.0	9.9
Rape	16.[illegible]	15.8	16.4	16.7	16.9	16.5
Burglary	8.7	7.9	8.0	8.8	8.6	8.4
Theft	9.1	8.4	8.7	8.2	6.5	8.2
Admissions						
Deliberate Homicide	101.2	89.7	54.1	99.8	76.7	84.3
Aggravated Assault	10.4	13.2	18.3	9.6	12.1	12.7
Robbery	11.6	15.7	15.8	17.8	8.8	13.9
Sexual Assault	7.4	8.3	8.5	7.6	6.9	7.7
Rape	16.2	14.2	12.7	10.6	14.1	13.6
Burglary	7.1	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.2	6.3
Theft	7.0	6.9	7.9	7.0	5.8	6.9

III. County Data

Data concerning the **proportion of the inmate population attributable to Montana counties** are presented in Tables 9 and 10. Table 9 identifies the 10 Montana counties that contribute the highest percent of total inmates to the correctional institution population. These counties contributed nearly 72 percent of the inmate population in 1988 and accounted for two-thirds of that population in 1980. Individual county contributions to the inmate population, expressed as a percent of total, are presented in Table 10, for fiscal years 1980 to 1988.

Table 9: Top Ten Counties - Percent of Total Jurisdiction Correctional Institution Populations. Montana. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

County	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Yellowstone	15.9	15.3	16.3	15.1	15.9	16.2	13.6	16.6	17.6
Cascade	12.1	11.3	11.6	11.6	9.0	8.8	9.9	8.5	9.1
Missoula	11.0	11.1	11.7	11.0	10.8	10.1	9.2	9.0	7.9
Flathead	7.1	6.6	7.2	6.7	6.5	6.3	8.1	6.6	6.6
Lewis & Clark	6.5	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.9	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.3
Powell	5.8	7.1	7.3	8.1	7.9	9.0	8.6	8.0	7.5
Lake	4.8	4.4	4.5	5.2	5.4	3.8	4.1	3.3	4.1
Silver Bow	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.9	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.3	4.7
Lincoln	2.8	3.5	2.5	2.2	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.7	2.2
Ravalli	2.7	2.7	2.1	1.7	2.1	1.7	1.5	2.1	1.8
TOTAL	71.7	69.8 x 68.9	71.1	70.8	70.8	67.0	66.2	65.8	66.8

Table 10: County of Sentence of Montana Correctional Institution Populations, Expressed As A Percent of Total Inmate Population. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
County	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Beaverhead	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	2.3	1.5
Big Horn	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9
Blaine	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.8
Broadwater	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6
Carbon	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1
Carter	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1
Cascade	12.1	11.3	11.6	11.6	9.0	8.8	9.9	8.5	9.1
Chouteau	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1
Custer	1.2	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	0.9	0.8	1.3
Daniels	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Dawson	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.4	1.6	3.1	2.8	2.2
Deer Lodge	0.7	1.1	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.9
Fallon	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4
Fergus	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
Flathead	7.1	6.6	7.2	6.7	6.5	6.3	8.1	6.6	6.6
Gallatin	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.5	3.9
Garfield	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.3
Glacier	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.3
Golden Valley	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Granite	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5
Hill	1.5	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.1
Jefferson	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8
Judith Basin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Lake	4.8	4.4	4.5	5.2	5.4	3.8	4.1	3.3	4.1
Lewis & Clark	6.5	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.9	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.3
Liberty	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lincoln	2.8	3.5	2.5	2.2	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.7	2.2
McCone	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.1
Madison	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5
Meagher	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0
Mineral	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.9
Missoula	11.0	11.1	11.7	11.0	10.8	10.1	9.2	9.0	7.9
Musselshell	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.9
Park	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.5	2.1	1.9
Petroleum	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Phillips	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8
Pondera	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
Powder River	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.1
Powell	5.8	7.1	7.3	8.1	7.9	9.0	8.6	8.0	7.5
Prairie	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ravalli	2.7	2.7	2.1	1.7	2.1	1.7	1.5	2.1	1.8
Richland	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.2	2.2	2.7	2.9	1.7	1.5
Roosevelt	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.3
Rosebud	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.1
Sanders	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.5
Sheridan	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1
Silver Bow	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.9	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.3	4.7
Stillwater	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.8
Sweetgrass	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.1
Teton	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
Toole	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.6
Treasure	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Valley	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.9
Wheatland	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4
Wibaux	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Yellowstone	15.9	15.3	16.3	15.1	15.9	16.2	13.6	16.6	17.6
Other*	4.4	5.9	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.1	4.8

Other includes inmates from other states and those for whom county of sentence is unknown.

IV. Sentencing Practices and Offender Characteristics

This section of the report contains more detailed examination of trends in sentencing practices and offender characteristics. These practices and characteristics shed light on the nature of persons sent to prison and how long they may stay there. For example, an offender who has been designated dangerous will spend substantially more time to parole eligibility, given equal sentence length, than one who has not. An offender designated ineligible for parole certainly will spend more time in prison than one who is parole eligible, given equal sentence length. Offenders with multiple court appearances and multiple convictions are likely to receive longer, more stringent sentences than those without such a history.

Table 11 displays the trend in proportions of the total institutional **population and admissions who have been imprisoned for the first time in Montana**. This statistic provides some insight into sentencing practices and, indirectly, into the proportion of the inmate population who have been imprisoned more than once. The data presented are for first Montana incarceration. Some offenders in this category may have served a prison term elsewhere. The proportion of first incarcerations remained relatively constant within the prison population from 1980 to 1988. The average for the period is 62.4 percent. In marked contrast, the proportion of first incarcerations among admissions increased 25 percent in relative size between 1984 and 1988. The corresponding increase in the population statistic was only 5 percent. These data may suggest that district court judges are making less use of sentencing alternatives other than incarceration.

Table 11: First Incarcerations as a Percent of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
First Incarceration	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population	63.0	63.0	60.9	58.3	59.9	66.8	61.9	62.9	64.8
Admissions	66.0	63.3	59.6	55.7	52.8	-	-	-	-

Data concerning the **proportion of offenders sent to prison on their first Montana felony conviction** are presented in Table 12. This sub-population experienced a relative decline in the early 1980s, then began to increase in 1986. The proportion of inmates incarcerated upon first Montana felony conviction increased 11.4 percent in relative size between 1984 and 1988. Again in marked contrast, the proportion of this sub-population in prison admissions rose over 27 percent between 1984 and 1988. This mirrors the trend shown in Table 11.

Table 12: Percent of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions Incarcerated Upon First Felony Conviction. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
First Conviction	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population	48.8	48.7	45.5	42.0	43.8	44.8	41.9	44.1	46.4
Admissions	52.3	49.7	49.8	40.7	41.1	-	-	-	-

The **proportion of first incarcerations among racial groups** comprising the prison populations and admissions are shown in Table 13. These data, when compared to those in Table 11, indicate that the proportion of first incarcerations among Native American, Black and all other racial groups within the population is lower than among whites and those of Mixed Race descent. The latter racial group has experienced the highest proportion of first incarcerations in the last two years. Among admissions, however, the data indicate that those of Mixed Race and All Other descent are over-represented in the first incarceration group - the All Other group consistently so. The latter result may be a result of the relatively small proportion of the All Other group within the total inmate population and admissions.

Table 13: First Incarcerations by Race. Percent of Racial Total Population and Admissions Serving Time on First Incarceration. Montana Correctional Institutions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Race	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
White	63.9	64.1	63.0	59.9	60.8	67.2	63.7	64.5	68.0
Native Am.	55.4	55.1	51.5	47.9	52.1	62.6	54.2	55.7	51.5
Mixed Race	66.7	65.9	57.9	53.3	52.2	63.6	52.6	62.5	8.8
Black	47.1	55.6	55.0	62.5	58.8	76.2	75.0	75.0	78.6
All Other	27.3	65.0	60.0	79.4	76.9	77.4	60.9	61.5	50.0
	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984				
Admissions									
White	65.8	64.7	62.1	60.4	56.0				
Nat.Amer.	66.3	57.1	53.1	37.7	34 3				
Mixed Race	71.4	56.5	61.5	47.1	33.3				
Black	37.5	50.0	22.2	66.7	37.5				
All Other	71.4	62.5	50.0	69.2	75.0				

The dangerous offender designation has a major effect on an individual's length of stay in prison. An offender labeled as dangerous must serve one-half his sentence, less good time, before becoming parole-eligible. An offender without the designation becomes parole-eligible after serving one-quarter of his sentence, less good time. The **proportion of the inmate population and admissions serving time as dangerous offenders** is presented in Table 14. Note that the proportion of the population labeled dangerous has increased steadily since 1980 and comprised nearly 15 percent of the total population in 1988. The proportion of admissions labeled dangerous also increased steadily between 1984 and 1988. That group experienced a 55 percent increase in relative size in the five-year period. The disparity in the proportion of dangerous offenders within the population and admissions is a result of the longer length of stay in prison of dangerous offenders.

Table 14: Percent of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions Designated As Dangerous Offenders. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Dangerous	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population	14.6	13.3	12.2	12.5	11.5	11.3	10.0	9.1	8.4
Admissions	7.6	6.9	7.0	6.5	4.9	-	-	-	-

The **proportions of prison populations and admissions designated ineligible for parole** are presented in Table 15. Inmates designated ineligible for parole are a small but growing proportion of prison populations. That population sub-group increased nearly 29 percent in relative size from 1980 to 1988. In contrast, the proportion of parole ineligible admissions declined over 40 percent from 1984 to 1988.

Table 15: Percent of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions Designated Ineligible for Parole. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Parole Ineligible	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.8
Admissions	1.3	1.3	2.0	1.3	2.3	-	-	-	-

Comparisons between the average admission age of various prison population and admissions sub-groups are presented in Table 16. The data therein indicate that there has been little difference between or within the admission ages of offenders serving time on first incarceration and those designated ineligible for parole or dangerous. In contrast, the 1980 to 1988 average admission age of population inmates sentenced to prison upon their first Montana felony conviction was four years greater than that of inmates sentenced to prison upon a second or succeeding conviction. This group also was two years older than the other groups displayed in Table 16. This phenomenon also appeared to a slightly lesser degree within admission data. Overall, the average admission age remained relatively stable in each population and admission group during the decade.

Table 16: Average Admission Age of First Incarcerations, Offenders Incarcerated on First Conviction, Offenders Designated Parole Ineligible and Offenders Designated Dangerous. Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980-1988.

	Fiscal Year								
	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
First Incarceration									
Yes	28.1	27.9	28.1	28.2	28.2	27.7	28.2	28.6	28.4
No	28.6	28.8	28.3	27.4	27.2	27.0	26.9	26.7	26.2
First Conviction									
Yes	30.5	30.6	30.4	30.4	30.3	29.3	30.1	30.6	29.8
No	26.2	26.0	26.4	26.1	25.8	26.0	25.9	25.8	25.8
Parole Ineligible									
Yes	28.1	27.9	29.1	27.3	28.1	28.1	28.8	28.3	29.9
No	28.3	28.2	28.2	27.9	27.8	27.4	27.7	27.9	27.6
Dangerous Designation									
Yes	28.4	28.0	28.5	28.0	27.6	27.8	28.2	27.3	27.2
No	28.3	28.3	28.1	27.8	27.8	27.4	27.7	28.0	27.7
Admissions									
First Incarceration									
Yes	27.6	27.6	27.8	27.7	27.9				
No	27.8	29.1	29.0	26.7	26.7				
First Conviction									
Yes	28.8	29.9	29.6	29.1	30.2				
No	26.6	26.4	26.9	26.0	25.4				
Parole Ineligible									
Yes	29.4	21.4	35.2	30.3	25.9				
No	27.7	28.2	28.1	27.2	27.4				
Dangerous Designation									
Yes	29.8	27.3	29.7	28.0	25.6				
No	27.6	28.2	28.2	27.2	27.5				

Tables 17 and 18 display the **proportions of inmate populations and admissions serving life sentences under parole ineligibility and dangerous designations.** Note in Table 17 that the proportions of inmate populations and admissions sentenced to life without parole have increased dramatically. The relative size of the population serving life without parole has increased nearly fivefold since 1980. That group has doubled in relative size among admissions. Similar trends are evident in the use of the dangerous offender designation. Table 18 reveals that the proportion of the inmate population serving life sentences has increased over threefold in relative size since 1980. Again, this proportion has doubled in relative size among admissions. These data illustrate a growing population of offenders serving very long sentences.

Table 17: Parole Eligibility of Inmates Serving Life Sentences. Percent of Populations and Admissions Serving Life Sentences Who Are Eligible and Ineligible For Parole. Montana. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Eligibility	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Eligible	78.1	83.3	88.5	88.0	88.0	93.9	95.5	95.8	95.6
Ineligible	21.9	16.7	11.5	12.0	12.0	6.1	4.5	4.2	4.4
Admissions									
Eligible	50.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	75.0				
Ineligible	50.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	25.0				

Table 18: Designation of Inmates Serving Life Sentences. Percent of Populations and Admissions Serving Life Sentences Who Are Designated Non-Dangerous or Dangerous Offenders. Montana. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Designation	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Non-Dangerous	59.4	83.3	88.5	72.0	80.0	81.8	90.9	87.5	87.0
Dangerous	40.6	36.7	30.8	28.0	20.0	18.2	9.1	12.5	13.0
Admissions									
Non-Dangerous	50.0	33.3	75.0	0.0	75.0				
Dangerous	50.0	66.7	25.0	100.0	25.0				

Admissions to prison include direct commitments upon conviction and offenders sent to prison upon revocation of suspended or deferred sentences. Persons returned to prison upon revocation of parole also are considered admissions. Examination of trends in the distribution of admissions types may illuminate changes in sentencing trends. Table 19 defines the **proportions of prison populations and admissions imprisoned upon direct commitment and revocation of probationary sentences,** from 1980 to 1988. Marked changes in patterns of imprisonment have occurred since 1980. Note that the proportion of the inmate population imprisoned directly has declined nearly 13 percent in relative size. The proportion of the population imprisoned upon revocation of suspended sentences has increased

over fourfold since 1980. The population group comprising revocations of deferred sentences also has increased slightly and more erratically in relative size since 1980. Two of these trends also are evident in the composition of admissions since 1984 but are less dramatic. The proportion of admissions upon direct commitment declined, as did that of revocation of deferred sentences, while admissions upon revocation of suspended sentence increased. The disproportion in the relative size of each group, between admissions and populations, may be taken as an indication of the **relative sentence length of each group**. The conclusion is borne out by the data in Table 20. Note that the average sentence length of direct commitments to prison is substantially larger than average sentences of those serving revoked deferred and revoked suspended sentences. Note also that, while the average sentence length of direct commitments has increased substantially in this decade, that of revoked deferred sentences has remained relatively stable and that of revoked suspended sentences has declined markedly. This trend applies to population and admission data.

Table 19: Court Commitments, Revoked Deferred and Revoked Suspended Sentences. Percent Total Montana Correctional Institutions Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980-1988.

Commitment	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Direct	79.0	80.5	80.9	82.4	84.8	90.1	86.6	89.4	90.5
Rev. Deferred	7.2	6.9	8.1	9.7	9.0	5.3	10.0	7.2	6.3
Rev.Suspended	13.8	12.6	11.0	7.9	6.2	4.6	3.4	3.4	3.2
Admissions									
Direct	70.4	69.0	71.4	71.5	75.3				
Rev.Deferred	8.9	10.6	10.7	16.9	16.6				
Rev.Suspended	20.4	20.4	17.9	11.6	8.1				

Table 20: Average Sentence Length of Court Commitment, Revoked Deferred and Revoked Suspended Sentences. Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Direct	27.1	24.8	22.8	24.1	22.0	20.9	21.6	20.9	21.1
Rev. Deferred	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.1	6.5	7.4	6.7	7.3	7.6
Rev.Suspended	8.7	8.7	8.3	9.6	9.6	9.4	10.3	15.2	13.6
Admissions									
Direct	16.6	13.8	12.1	14.2	11.9				
Rev.Deferred	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.2				
Rev.Suspended	6.0	6.0	6.1	7.5	8.3				

Many convicted felons complete their sentences without incarceration, through successful completion of probation in the community. Some individuals reoffend a number of times. Table 21 displays the **percentage of incarcerated offenders who have been tried and convicted one or more times.** Data are presented for prison populations and admissions. Note that the population proportion of offenders incarcerated after one trial increased slightly in 1987 and 1988 after a decline in the mid-1980s. This trend was more dramatic within admissions. The proportion of offenders admitted after one trial increased 27 percent from 1984 to 1988. These data also suggest that incarceration has been chosen more often as a sentencing alternative in recent years. Despite the variation in the number of trials experienced by prison populations, the data displayed in Table 22 indicate that the **average number of court appearances of those incarcerated** has been quite stable since 1980. Among admissions, the average number of court appearances has declined since 1984. This trend is consistent with other data in this report indicating that offenders are more often sent to prison than in past years.

Table 21: Percent of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions With One or More Court Trials. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

No. trials	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
1	48.5	48.5	45.4	41.7	43.4	44.5	41.9	44.1	46.4
2	27.9	28.9	28.9	30.8	28.8	29.5	30.8	31.9	32.4
3	14.7	14.6	15.9	16.4	17.4	16.3	17.3	14.8	13.4
4	6.2	5.1	6.8	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.8	5.7	5.1
5	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.2	1.6	2.2	2.4	1.5
6	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.0
7+	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
Admissions									
1	51.6	49.4	49.9	40.7	40.6				
2	28.1	28.7	28.4	34.4	28.9				
3	11.9	15.0	14.9	16.2	18.3				
4	5.8	4.4	5.4	6.8	8.7				
5	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.7	2.8				
6	0.4	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.6				
7+	-	-	0.2	0.2	-				

Table 22: Average Number of Court Appearances Resulting in Conviction of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Appearances	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Admissions	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.1				

The **average sentence length of incarcerated offenders with one or more court appearances** is presented in Table 23. The average length of sentence of offenders in the prison population with one or two court appearances has increased 24 and 21 percent, in relative length, respectively. This trend indicates that offenders with shorter criminal histories are being sentenced more severely. The data in this table also indicate that, contrary to common expectation, the average length of sentence does not increase in proportion to the number of an offender's court appearances. Among admissions, average sentence length also increased substantially for offenders with one or two court appearances. The increase in sentence length for offenders with a single trial was nearly 46 percent. The variability of these data illustrates the variability of sentencing practices.

Table 23: Average Sentence Length of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions With One Or More Court Appearances Resulting In Conviction. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Appearances	Fiscal Years 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
1	22.9	21.0	20.3	22.3	20.9	19.5	19.2	18.7	18.4
2	24.4	23.0	19.8	20.3	19.5	19.8	20.9	19.2	20.1
3	24.9	23.2	21.0	22.0	19.2	21.0	18.0	22.6	24.9
4	17.2	17.0	16.5	18.6	16.5	16.3	18.6	19.7	21.3
5	16.6	16.1	15.7	18.6	18.5	18.1	27.5	25.6	14.3
6	25.4	25.7	25.4	24.2	21.0	25.7	28.1	24.3	31.0
7+	10.0	10.0	7.5	10.0	-	-	-	-	0.0
Admissions									
1	13.4	11.0	10.6	11.2	9.2				
2	13.5	12.1	9.1	13.9	10.4				
3	14.5	11.6	10.6	9.8	11.2				
4	12.1	8.7	12.7	9.7	12.9				
5	11.2	14.6	16.6	17.1	20.6				
6	16.5	8.0	6.0	-	4.7				
7+	-	-	5.0	10.0	-				

Offenders may be convicted of one or more offenses in any given court appearance. Each offense of which an offender is found guilty is counted as a conviction. Table 24 displays the **percentage of prison populations and admissions who have been convicted of one to seven or more offenses.** The proportion of offenders in the population who were convicted of one offense declined appreciably from 1980 to 1988. Proportions of the population convicted of multiple offenses varied during the period, although most categories increased slightly. This trend suggests that offenders with multiple offenses tend to receive longer sentences. In contrast, admissions for the single offense group increased 29 percent in relative size from 1984 to 1988, while those for multiple offenses declined. The latter trend suggests increasing use of incarceration as a sentencing alternative. Both trends are consistent with other data presented in this report. The **average number of convictions per court appearance** of prison populations and admissions are presented in Table 25. These data indicate that average convictions rose in proportion to number of court appearances, as expected. Average convictions per court appearance also have increased over time, in all categories. This trend may suggest increased criminal activity on the part of convicted offenders, improved prosecution practices or both. The trends in admissions and population data are not dissimilar, suggesting that

at least this characteristic of the offender base has changed consistently over time.

Table 24: Percent of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions Committing One Or More Offenses On Their Current Convictions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Offenses	Fiscal Years 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
1	32.6	32.4	30.0	27.5	28.8	31.1	31.3	38.0	40.7
2	28.4	30.5	31.0	30.6	29.7	28.8	28.1	29.5	29.2
3	17.3	16.9	18.6	19.3	20.0	20.0	20.6	14.8	14.5
4	10.9	11.0	10.6	11.3	11.2	10.2	10.4	8.8	8.0
5	6.3	5.4	5.5	6.6	6.0	5.6	5.2	5.7	4.4
6	2.3	1.9	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	1.7	1.1
7+	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.5	2.0
Admissions									
1	38.8	34.3	33.3	28.3	30.0				
2	28.3	31.6	32.9	33.8	29.8				
3	15.6	15.1	16.7	18.3	18.5				
4	8.9	10.9	10.4	11.2	12.3				
5	4.6	4.0	4.4	5.3	5.1				
6	2.0	2.2	1.4	2.1	2.1				
7+	1.7	1.8	1.0	1.0	2.1				

Table 25: Average Number of Convictions by Number of Court Appearances. Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Offenses	Fiscal Years 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
1	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3
2	3.2	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4
3	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.8
4	5.4	5.0	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.6
5	7.1	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.1	6.0
6	10.1	9.5	9.0	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.0	8.6	9.4
7+	8.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	-	-	-	-	8.0
Admissions									
1	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5				
2	3.1	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.8				
3	4.4	4.4	4.2	3.8	4.0				
4	5.7	4.6	5.1	5.3	5.0				
5	7.2	8.6	7.2	6.9	7.3				
6	12.0	9.2	8.0	-	7.3				
7+	-	-	10.0	8.0	-				

Revocations of deferred or suspended sentences typically are imposed for violations of the conditions of a probationary sentence or for

commission of a new crime. Some offenders may receive deferred sentences initially, have them revoked to suspended sentences, then receive another revocation and be sent to prison. **Offenders serving prison time for revoked deferred or suspended sentences often have been convicted of more offenses than those sent directly to prison.** The data presented in Table 26 illustrate this fact. Prison populations and admissions incarcerated upon revocation of suspended sentences consistently were convicted of more offenses than those serving time on revoked deferred or direct commitment sentences. Within the population, the average number of offenses resulting in incarceration increased for direct commitments and revoked deferred sentences from 1980 to 1988. That number declined among offenders incarcerated upon revocation of suspended sentences. Within admissions, declines in the average number of convictions leading to imprisonment occurred within the direct commitment and revoked suspended groups.

Table 26: Average Number of Convictions - Court Commitments, Revoked Deferred and Revoked Suspended Sentences. Percent Total Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Commitment	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Direct	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.2
Rev. Deferred	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.9
Rev.Suspended	3.9	3.9	3.6	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.5	5.0	4.4
Admissions									
Direct	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7				
Rev.Deferred	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.1	2.9				
Rev.Suspended	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.6	4.4				

The data presented in Table 27 **compare the average number of convictions of offenders serving their first incarceration to that of those serving a repeat incarceration.** As expected, recidivists have experienced more convictions, within the population and admissions. For the population, the number of convictions resulting in a first incarceration increased 42 percent in relative size from 1980 to 1988, compared to a six percent increase in the number of convictions of the multiple incarceration group. The latter trend was not apparent among admissions, where only a slight increase occurred.

Table 27: Average Number of Convictions of Offenders Comprising Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions, by First Incarceration. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
1st Incarc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9
Not 1st Incarc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.1
Admissions									
1st Incarc.	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.3				
Not 1st Incarc.	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.4				

The **number of convictions associated with parole eligibility and dangerous offender designations** are presented in Table 28. Offender populations designated ineligible for parole had acquired an average of 32 percent more convictions than those eligible for parole from 1980 to 1988. In comparison, the population of offenders designated as dangerous had acquired only 4 percent more convictions than non-dangerous offenders. This statistic indicates that the dangerous designation is applied more in response to the type of crime than to the frequency of crime. Among admissions, parole-ineligible offenders had been convicted of an average of 64 percent more crimes than parole-eligible offenders in the 1984-1988 period. Dangerous offenders were convicted of an average of 22 percent more offenses than non-dangerous offenders in the same period.

Table 28: Average Number of Convictions of Offenders Designated Parole Eligible, Parole Ineligible, Dangerous and Non-Dangerous. Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Years								
Designation	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Parole Elig	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.3
Parole Inelig	4.1	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.3
Dangerous	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.7	2.9
Non-dangerous	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4
Admissions									
Parole Elig	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8				
Parole Inelig	4.7	5.9	3.1	4.6	4.7				
Dangerous	2.9	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.8				
Non-dangerous	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7				

V. Offender Demographic Data

Most criminal behavior is committed by males aged 18 to 35. The **average age of Montana prison populations and admissions** is presented in Table 29. The average age of both groups falls within the upper end of the "typical criminal" age range. The average age of the prison population increased about 9 percent from 1980 to 1988. The average admission age of the population increased about 2 percent in that period. The average age of prison admissions remained fairly stable, increasing 1 percent from 1984 to 1988. The **age composition of prison populations and admissions** is shown in Table 30. Those data indicate a marked decline in the relative size of the less-than-20 and 20 to 24 age cohorts between 1980 and 1988. The 25-29 age cohort declined slightly in relative size during that period. All other age cohorts, except those aged 50 or more, increased in relative size. The shift in the age composition of prison admissions was much the same but less pronounced. The less-than-20 and 20-24 age cohorts decreased slightly in relative size while the proportions of all but the two oldest age cohorts increased in relative size.

Table 29: Average Age of Montana Correctional Institutions Population and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population	33.0	32.7	32.4	32.0	31.4	30.9	30.6	30.6	30.3
Admission Age of Population	28.3	28.2	28.2	27.9	27.8	27.4	27.7	27.9	27.7
Admissions	27.7	28.1	28.3	27.2	27.4	-	-	-	-

Table 30: Age Composition of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Age Groups as a Percent of Total Population and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Years								
Age	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
< 20	2.5	1.8	2.4	2.9	3.0	4.2	4.8	5.0	4.8
20-24	18.7	21.2	21.6	22.1	23.2	26.6	25.7	29.3	30.2
25-29	22.6	22.0	22.8	23.5	25.2	24.0	24.0	22.8	25.2
30-34	18.5	19.8	17.4	17.8	18.0	16.0	18.5	15.9	14.6
35-39	15.4	14.7	15.9	15.4	13.7	12.9	11.0	7.9	8.4
40-44	9.7	8.6	8.8	7.9	7.0	6.7	6.6	8.8	6.3
45-49	6.0	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	4.0	3.8
50+	6.6	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.4	6.7
Admissions									
< 20	16.4	12.6	13.7	16.7	17.2				
20-24	29.8	35.0	32.6	37.3	33.6				
25-29	19.4	19.2	16.9	14.4	17.2				
30-34	13.8	12.8	14.1	12.4	12.8				
35-39	9.3	7.7	10.1	8.7	8.3				
40-44	6.3	5.7	5.6	4.8	5.3				
45-49	2.4	2.7	3.2	3.0	2.8				
50+	2.6	4.4	3.8	2.7	2.8				

The data in Tables 29 and 30 suggest that the Montana population of convicted offenders is not being "replaced" by younger offenders. If replacement were occurring, the average age of the prison population would not be increasing at its present rate. Montana's general population increased an estimated 2.8 percent from 1980 to 1988. The population of males aged 18 to 35 decreased slightly. As noted earlier in this report, crime rates in Montana declined in the 1980s. These trends, if they continue, may result in a slight decline in prison admissions in future years, assuming that the size of the "at risk of crime" population is the primary variable correlating with the incidence of crime. If prison admissions do decline, that phenomenon may partially offset increasingly strict sentencing practices and reduce the rate of prison crowding.

The **average ages of inmates serving direct commitment and revoked sentences** are presented in Table 31. Populations incarcerated by direct commitment have a consistently higher age than those serving revoked suspended or revoked deferred sentences. Inmates serving revoked suspended sentences are slightly older than those serving revoked deferred sentences.

All three inmate groups experienced an increase in average age during the 1980s although the trend among inmates serving revoked sentences was more erratic. The difference between the average ages of these groups among admissions was similar but less pronounced from 1984 to 1988. These data are consistent with the expectation that younger offenders will more often receive probationary sentences than older offenders. The data also provide evidence that many incarcerated offenders "work" their way to prison through revocations of deferred and then suspended sentences. Table 32 displays the **average admission ages of persons serving life and death sentences.** The average admission age of inmates with life sentences has increased somewhat since 1980 and differs little from that of all inmates. There were 6 inmates sentenced to death by fiscal year end 1988. This number is too small to establish any trend.

Table 31: Average Age of Offenders Incarcerated On Revoked Deferred, Revoked Suspended and Direct Commitment Sentences. Montana. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
Commitment	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Direct	33.8	33.3	33.1	32.7	31.8	31.1	30.9	31.0	30.5
Rev. Deferred	28.4	28.7	28.6	28.1	29.5	29.8	28.7	28.2	27.5
Rev.Suspended	30.6	31.3	30.4	30.3	28.7	29.0	28.3	25.9	29.2
Admissions									
Direct	28.5	28.2	28.7	27.7	27.8				
Rev.Deferred	25.0	25.2	26.9	25.3	26.5				
Rev.Suspended	28.5	29.1	27.3	26.8	25.3				

Table 32: Average Admission Age of Inmates Serving Life or Death Sentences. Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Years								
Admission Age	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Life	28.7	28.7	26.8	26.2	26.6	25.3	26.5	26.7	25.3
Death	27.8	27.8	27.6	27.6	27.5	27.5	28.3	28.3	28.3
Admissions									
Life	35.3	32.0	39.5	28.5	24.8				
Death	-	29.0	-	28.0	-				

The **racial composition of Montana's inmate populations and admissions** is presented in Table 33. The proportion of inmates by race was consistent

from 1980 to 1988. Note that Native Americans comprise almost one-sixth the population of inmates. Native Americans constitute less than one-twentieth of Montana's general population. Native American prison admissions constituted a smaller proportion of prison admissions from 1984 to 1988, with whites comprising a correspondingly larger proportion. Other racial/ethnic groups are few in number and comprise small proportions of inmate populations and admissions. The **average age of racial components of inmate populations and admissions** is displayed in Table 34. There is little difference in the average age of racial groups, averaged over the period 1980 to 1988. Whites displayed the highest average age - 31.8 years - for the period. Those of Mixed Race descent displayed the lowest average age at 30.1 years. These data were presented to demonstrate that there is no consistent variation in sentencing by race, at least with respect to offender age.

Table 33: Racial Composition of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Race as a Percent of Total Population and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
Race	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
White	76.1	77.0	76.0	74.5	74.8	72.2	73.7	73.9	76.6
Native Am.	15.8	14.7	15.9	17.9	17.0	20.2	19.5	19.1	16.9
Mixed Race	3.2	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.2
Black	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3	1.8
All Other	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.2	4.0	3.2	2.5	3.0	2.5
	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984				
Admissions									
White	74.1	79.4	78.9	73.2	79.5				
Nat.Amer.	16.6	12.8	12.7	20.0	14.9				
Mixed Race	2.6	4.2	2.6	3.2	1.3				
Black	1.5	0.7	1.8	1.1	1.7				
All Other	5.2	2.9	4.0	2.5	2.6				

Table 34: Average Age of Racial Components of Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

Race	Fiscal Year 1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
White	33.3	33.0	32.6	32.3	31.8	31.0	30.8	30.8	30.4
Native Am.	31.6	32.0	32.1	31.6	30.5	30.3	30.3	30.3	30.6
Mixed Race	32.1	29.1	29.8	30.4	29.8	32.0	31.1	29.5	27.6
Black	33.2	34.4	32.3	31.3	29.8	30.7	32.0	29.8	30.2
All Other	32.8	33.6	33.4	31.0	29.5	29.6	27.8	29.0	28.7
Admissions									
White	28.3	28.3	28.5	27.4	27.7				
Nat.Amer.	25.3	27.6	27.2	27.3	25.9				
Mixed Race	28.3	25.1	22.5	24.0	24.7				
Black	26.0	33.0	28.4	27.8	27.6				
All Other	26.8	28.5	30.7	27.4	26.7				

Selected sentencing practices, assorted by race, are presented in Tables 35, 36 and 37. The proportion of inmates serving direct commitment and revoked sentences, by race, is presented in Table 35. Substantially higher proportions of Mixed Race and Black inmates are serving direct commitment sentences than those of inmates of other racial groups. This phenomenon may be due in part to the relatively small size of these groups within the offender population. In this circumstance, the effects of small changes are magnified. The proportion of Native American and Other descent inmates serving revoked suspended sentences is higher than that of other racial groups. All racial groups experienced a decline in the relative size of cohorts serving direct commitment sentences, with corresponding increases in the proportion serving revoked sentences. This trend was least pronounced among inmates of Black and Mixed Race descent.

Table 35: Revocations by Race. Percent of Racial Total Populations and Admissions Serving Court Commitment, Revoked Deferred and Revoked Suspended Sentences. Montana Correctional Institutions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
White Ct.	79.3	80.8	81.3.	82.4	84.3	90.5	87.0	89.8	90.7
Revoked Deferred	7.4	6.7	8.4	10.5	9.9	5.7	10.3	6.8	6.3
Revoked Suspended	13.3	12.5	10.3	7.1	5.8	3.8	2.7	3.4	3.0
Native American Ct	75.4	75.0	76.3	79.8	84.8	87.9	84.7	88.0	88.0
Revoked Deferred	7.7	10.2	9.8	9.6	7.3	5.1	9.6	8.4	7.5
Revoked Suspended	16.9	14.8	13.9	10.6	7.9	7.0	5.7	3.6	4.5
Mixed Race Ct.	89.7	92.7	81.6	86.7	87.0	90.9	89.4	93.8	94.1
Revoked Deferred	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0
Revoked Suspended	7.7	7.3	18.4	13.3	13.0	9.1	5.3	6.2	5.9
Black Ct	88.2	88.8	90.0	93.8	88.2	95.2	95.0	85.0	92.9
Revoked Deferred	5.9	5.6	5.0	6.2	11.8	4.8	5.0	15.0	7.1
Revoked Suspended	5.9	5.6	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Ct	77.3	82.5	90.0	88.2	92.3	90.3	78.3	88.5	95.0
Revoked Deferred	4.5	2.5	0.0	3.0	2.6	3.2	13.0	7.7	5.0
Revoked Suspended	18.2	15.0	10.0	8.8	5.1	6.5	8.7	3.8	0.0
Admissions									
White Ct.	70.1	68.3	72.8	73.2	75.4				
Revoked Deferred	10.1	10.8	9.6	16.4	17.4				
Revoked Suspended	19.8	20.9	17.6	10.4	7.2				
Native American Ct	67.4	67.1	56.2	62.8	72.9				
Revoked Deferred	6.8	10.0	21.9	22.9	14.3				
Revoked Suspended	25.8	22.9	21.9	14.3	12.8				
Mixed Race Ct.	78.6	82.6	76.9	64.7	66.7				
Revoked Deferred	7.1	8.7	0.0	11.8	0.0				
Revoked Suspended	14.3	8.7	23.1	23.5	33.3				
Black Ct	87.5	75.0	66.7	00.0	75.0				
Revoked Deferred	0.0	25.0	22.2	0.0	25.0				
Revoked Suspended	12.5	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0				
Other Ct	75.0	75.0	90.0	84.6	91.7				
Revoked Deferred	3.6	6.3	0.0	0.0	8.3				
Revoked Suspended	21.4	18.7	10.0	15.4	0.0				

Table 36 contains trends in **designations of inmate parole ineligibility, disaggregated by race.** Black inmates have been designated parole ineligible at a much higher rate than have inmates of other racial or

ethnic descent, since 1980. Whites occupy second place in this distribution, at an average rate that is 57 percent that of Blacks. Native American inmates have been designated parole ineligible slightly more often than those of Mixed Race descent since 1980, although the latter group has received that designation more often than the former since 1984. Finally, the **distribution of life sentences, disaggregated by race**, is presented in Table 37. White inmates have received life sentences at a higher rate than their proportion of the total inmate population would predict. This rate has declined since 1980, with a corresponding increase in life sentences for Native American inmates and those of all other racial/ethnic categories. Still, inmates of "non-white" descent received life sentences at a lower rate than whites in 1988.

Table 36: Parole Ineligibility by Race. Percent of Racial Total Population Designated as Parole Ineligible. Montana Correctional Institutions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
Race	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
White	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2
Native American	1.5	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.0	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.5
Mixed Race	2.6	2.4	5.3	3.3	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	11.8	5.6	5.0	6.7	5.9	4.8	5.0	5.0	7.1
All Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table 37: Racial Composition of Inmate Populations Serving Life Sentences, Expressed as a Percent. Montana. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
Race	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
White	81.3	83.3	88.5	88.0	84.0	84.8	90.9	91.6	91.3
Native American	12.5	13.3	11.5	8.0	8.0	9.1	4.5	4.2	4.3
Mixed Race	6.3	3.3	0.0	4.0	8.0	9.1	4.5	4.2	4.3

The **marital status of inmate populations and admissions** is shown in Table 38. Single inmates constitute the plurality of populations and admissions. Married and divorced inmates comprise roughly equal proportions of the inmate population at just under 25 percent of the total. Married inmates constitute a slightly larger proportion of prison admissions than do divorced inmates. Common law, separated and widowed inmates comprise small and relatively stable proportions of inmate populations and admissions. In comparison, 29.1 percent of males in the Montana general population are single, 61.9 percent are married and just under seven percent are divorced or separated. No marked changes in the marital status of inmate populations or admissions appeared during the period 1980 to 1988.

Table 38: Marital Status as a Percent of Total Montana Correctional Institution Populations and Admissions. Fiscal Years 1980 - 1988.

	Fiscal Year								
Marital Status	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
Population									
Single	41.7	41.3	41.6	41.0	41.4	43.0	42.8	44.7	42.8
Married	24.1	23.8	23.0	23.8	24.4	23.0	23.6	23.5	25.0
Common Law	5.7	6.2	6.7	7.4	6.7	7.0	6.1	4.8	4.6
Separated	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.8	3.5	3.1	3.4
Divorced	24.2	24.4	24.0	22.9	23.1	22.6	22.7	22.1	23.2
Widowed									
Admissions									
Single	43.0	40.9	43.9	43.2	43.2				
Married	25.0	25.5	24.0	23.2	24.7				
Common Law	6.0	5.3	5.2	8.2	6.2				
Separated	3.2	3.8	3.6	4.4	3.0				
Divorced	21.4	23.4	22.0	19.6	21.9				
Widowed	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.1				

VI. Probation and Parole Data

Validation of the probation and parole data base is not complete. This report contains limited probation and parole data as a result. The Department expects that validation of that database will be completed in time for next year's report.

Tables 1 and 2, presented earlier in this report, indicate the sizes of probation and parole populations and admissions. Probation and parole populations have grown about 23 percent since 1984 - both have grown almost 43 percent in relative size since 1980. In contrast, parole admissions have

increased nearly 80 percent in relative size in the same period. Figures 5 and 6 provide a **comparison of population and admission trends for probationers and parolees**. Note in Figure 5 that, although admissions have declined steadily since 1984, the population of probationers has continued to increase. This finding suggests that time spent on probationary sentences has been increasing since 1984. Figure 6 shows an increase in parole populations and admissions. The rate of increase in parole admissions is greater than that of parole populations, suggesting that time spent on parole has been decreasing. This finding is consistent with earlier sections of this report demonstrating an increase in time spent under institutional supervision.

FIGURE 6: PROBATION POPULATIONS AND ADMISSIONS. FISCAL YEARS 1984-1988.

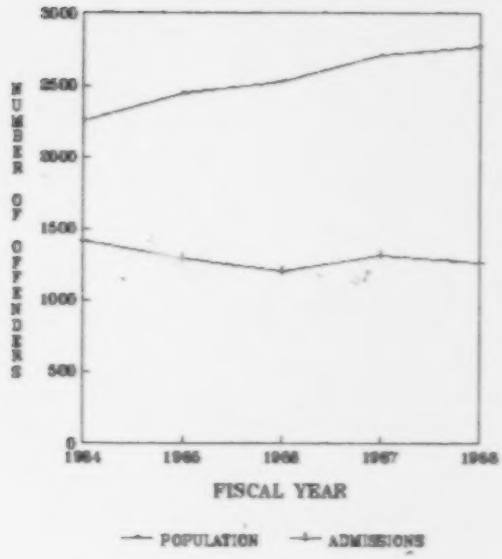
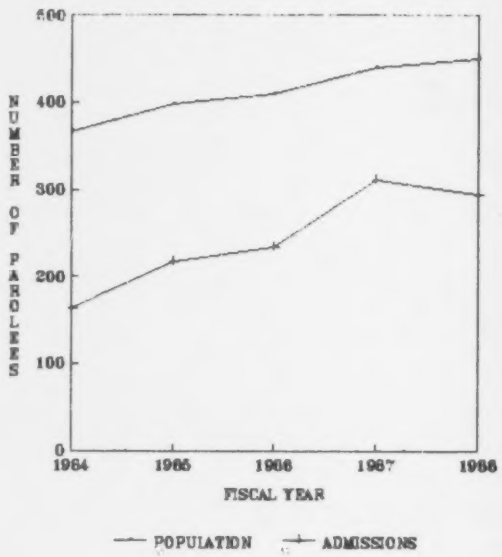


FIGURE 6: PAROLE POPULATIONS AND ADMISSIONS. FISCAL YEARS 1984-1988.



Probationers and parolees are assigned to supervision levels soon after admission. These levels are maximum, medium and minimum supervision. Assignments are made using a modification of an objective rating scale initially developed in Wisconsin. Maximum supervision offenders must meet with their supervising officer at least twice a month; medium supervision offenders meet with their officers at least once a month. Both groups also must file a monthly report. Minimum supervision offenders must meet with their supervisors at least quarterly and file quarterly reports. Table 39

displays the **distribution of maximum, medium and minimum supervision probationers and parolees for fiscal years 1985 through 1988.** New cases are recent admissions who have not been classified.

Table 39: Number and Percent Total Montana Probationers and Parolees Under Maximum, Medium, and Minimum Supervision. Fiscal Years 1985-1988.

	Fiscal Year			
	1988	1987	1986	1985
Probationers				
Maximum No.	891	869	837	779
% Probationers	32.2	32.1	33.2	31.9
% Total	27.7	27.6	28.5	27.4
Medium No.	581	605	559	551
% Probationers	21.0	22.3	22.1	22.6
% Total	18.0	19.2	19.0	19.4
Minimum No.	534	497	410	392
% Probationers	19.3	18.3	16.2	16.0
% Total	16.6	15.8	14.0	13.8
New No.	764	738	718	721
% Probationers	27.6	27.2	28.4	29.5
% Total	23.7	23.5	24.5	25.4
Parolees				
Maximum No.	145	141	136	127
% Probationers	32.1	32.0	33.1	31.8
% Total	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5
Medium No.	95	98	91	90
% Probationers	21.0	22.2	22.1	22.6
% Total	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2
Minimum No.	87	81	67	64
% Probationers	19.2	18.4	16.3	16.0
% Total	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.3
New No.	125	120	117	118
% Probationers	27.7	27.3	28.5	29.6
% Total	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.2
Total	3,222	3,145	2,935	2,842

Maximum supervision probationers and parolees consistently comprise the largest group within the population. Minimum supervision offenders make up the smallest group. The data indicate little change in the relative size of

each group. The size of the minimum supervision group has increased slightly since 1985 - the medium supervision group has shown a corresponding decrease. Admissions to probation have decreased, as discussed elsewhere. Similar trends are visible in the population of parolees.

D. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Prison populations are determined by the number of admissions to prison and by length of stay in prison. Both of these factors are controlled by a number of other variables, including population size and composition, the incidence of crime, law enforcement and correctional resources, public policy, political sentiment, judicial practices, and individual behaviors. The future influence of many of these variables is difficult to predict; predicting the interaction of those variables is even more difficult.

Crime commonly is said to be a profession of young males aged 18 to 35. Most felony offenders fall within that age cohort. Crime also is said to be a function of family instability, socioeconomic conditions and status, genetics, public policy, and a host of other influences. Despite the labelling, individual and group criminal behavior remains difficult to predict. In addition, the incidence of crime is not necessarily a reliable predictor of prison populations. In Montana, at least, prison populations have risen independently of the most commonly used predictors of prison populations - population size and crime rate. Further, the greater increase in prison populations compared to admissions indicates that the length of stay increases are a significant component of prison population growth in Montana. Length of stay is determined almost completely by the judicial system and by the Board of Pardons. The actions of these entities also are extremely difficult to predict.

Prison population projections in Montana are derived using a commercial computer software program named IMPACT. The program is marketed by the Criminal Justice Statistics Association, an interstate corrections consortium. IMPACT permits population projections using a number of techniques, including regression analyses of the variables commonly thought to determine prison populations. IMPACT also provides a program that estimates populations using an input-output equation. The latter program is used by Montana Corrections because our present data and data analysis capabilities are inadequate for more sophisticated techniques. The IMPACT

program chosen - QUICK Project - uses base population and length of stay values and, combining them with estimates of future length of stay and admissions, projects future populations for given years. QUICK has produced very accurate "projections" of historical Montana correctional populations, using known historical data. However, the program does not provide estimates of the number of future admissions and length of stay. That is where the "art" and difficulty of projecting prison populations lies.

Montana Corrections copes with the uncertainties of projecting future prison admissions and average length of stay by estimating populations for a range of feasible admissions and lengths of stay. The Department Director then selects the combination of assumed future admissions, lengths of stay, and projected population that seems most reasonable to him. It is important to recognize that any population projection is valid only for the assumptions upon which it is based. It is also important to consider that projection errors are more magnified in effect with small populations. A five-person error in projection would make little difference in the context of a 1,200 person population, but would be substantial in the context of a population of 40.

The Department of Institutions correctional institution population projections are presented in Table 40. Estimated future lengths of stay and admissions are included in the projections.

Table 40: Department of Institutions Correctional Institution Population Projections. Fiscal Years 1989 - 1995.

	Fiscal Year						
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Future Length of Stay (Months)	31	31.25	31.5	31.75	32.0	32.25	32.5
Montana State Prison	1022	1059	1095	1118	1139	1157	1174
Male Total Jurisdiction	1208	1245	1281	1304	1325	1343	1360

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